

**REMARKS**

This submission is in response to the Official Action dated June 11, 2004. Reconsideration of the above identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

**I. Status of the Claims**

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 2-5, 9, 10, 12, 23, 26-28, and 35 have been amended.

No new matter is added.

Claims 2-42 are presently pending.

Claims 1-9 and 27 stand rejected.

Claims 10-26 and 28-42 are objected to.

**II. Acknowledgement of Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 10-26 and 28-42. Claims 12-26 and 28-42 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 10 and 11 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and also for the informality noted below. Claims 10, 12, 23, 28, and 35 have been amended to be in independent form, and claims 11, 13-22, 24-26, 29-34, and 36-42 depend on claims 10, 12, 23, 28, and 35. Thus, claims 10-26 and 28-42 are in condition for allowance.

**III. Claim Objection**

Claim 9 has been objected to for informal matters and has been amended to correct the informality noted by the Examiner. Applicants have amended claim 9 to replace "on least" by "on at least," as suggested by the Examiner. Hence, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

**IV. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection**

Claims 1-9 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0134637 to Salecker et al. ("Salecker"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Hence, the rejection of claim 1 has been rendered moot.

Claims 2-5 and 27 have been amended to depend on claim 10, and claim 9 has been amended to depend on claim 12. Claims 10 and 12, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable, have been amended to be in independent form. Claims 6-8 depend on claim 5 and are therefore also patentable for at least the same reasons. Thus, claims 2-9 and 27 of the present invention are patentable over Salecker.

Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the aforementioned reasons, the rejections of claims 1-9 and 27 should be withdrawn. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: December 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By Denise L. Poy  
Denise L. Poy  
Registration No.: 53,480

DARBY & DARBY P.C.  
P.O. Box 5257  
New York, New York 10150-5257  
(212) 527-7700  
(212) 753-6237 (Fax)  
Attorneys/Agents For Applicants